


EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
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Remarks


 Executive Secretary
 5 Jun 86
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Excerpt from newspaper article in ER file.
Newspaper article sent to D/PAO.

Chicago Tribune

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June 2, 1986

I hope you will find the attached special Tribune report
useful and informative.

Nicholas Horrock



P-304-1R

Perspective

Section 5 **

Chicago Tribune Sunday, June 1, 1986

U.S. Space Program at Crossroads

25 years after Kennedy's challenge, nation takes off rose-colored glasses

"I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth."

—President John F. Kennedy,
May 25, 1961.

By Storer Rowley
and Michael Tackett

WASHINGTON—With those words, President Kennedy challenged Congress to launch Americans on a bold mission to assume world leadership in space exploration by putting astronauts on the moon.

A quarter century later, after spending \$120 billion on 53 successful manned space flights and probes that scouted every planet but Neptune and Pluto, after U.S. astronauts walked and drove on the lunar surface, and just as space travel seemed almost routine to a whole generation of Americans—the nation is grounded in history's worst space disaster.

Six astronauts and an eager 37-year-old high school social studies teacher from Concord, N.H., on her first space flight, died in full view of the world as their Challenger spacecraft exploded 73 seconds after takeoff Jan. 28 and plunged nine miles into the Atlantic Ocean.

fatal Challenger flight, is asking yet another president to spend billions of dollars on a new expedition into the unknown—to launch a new, futuristic space project at what will be astronomical cost.

Yet, as one presidential task force talks of civilian space exploration to the edge of the envelope, of man's imagination, another presidential commission will report June 9 on the gritty reality of the Challenger accident and on the actual state of civilian space exploration.

The four-month investigation by the presidential commission on the Challenger accident has found a beleaguered National Aeronautics and Space Administration reeling from allegations of flawed judgment, mismanagement, launch pressures and exaggerated plans for space operations. Its report will talk of a space agency having difficulty carrying forward even mundane operational matters amid dwindling national support for its venture.

Once again, the United States is at a crossroads on space policy, as crucial as any since Americans began their journey for the moon.

The different visions of the future of the space program will set the parameters for the debate that will follow the publication of the Challenger commission's findings.

"My reading of the American public is that they're worried about the deficit all right, but they want to move out into space. They're

American public keeps faith, but honeymoon ends

By Jon Margolis

WASHINGTON—Full speed ahead, but be very careful.

That, according to the polls, the politicians and the experts, is what the American people are telling their leaders about sending people into space, now that seven astronauts have died there.

The continuing faith in the space program despite the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger last January stems from two very old American beliefs—that the future will be better than the past, and that technology can help make it that way.

"It goes way back," said Bernard Mergen, the director of the American Studies Program at George Washington University. "There's something about the history of this country. A technological improvement—sailing—made the discovery of America possible. And a lot of those ships went down. There were tragedies then, too."

But the ships, the explorers, the trappers, the settlers, kept coming.

"This notion of risk-taking, of frontiers and